Tamil Arasu

SEPTEMBER 1992 Re.1

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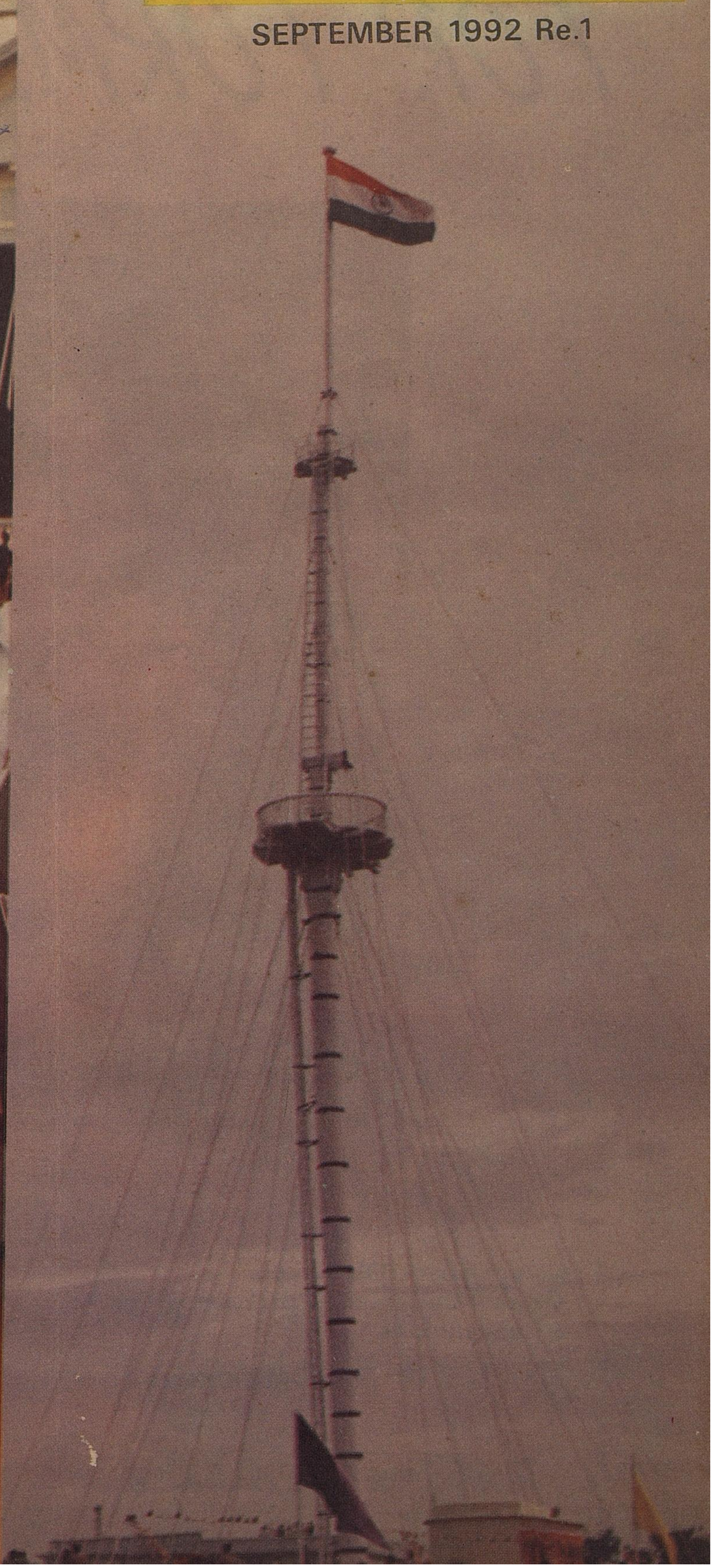

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TAMIL ARASU

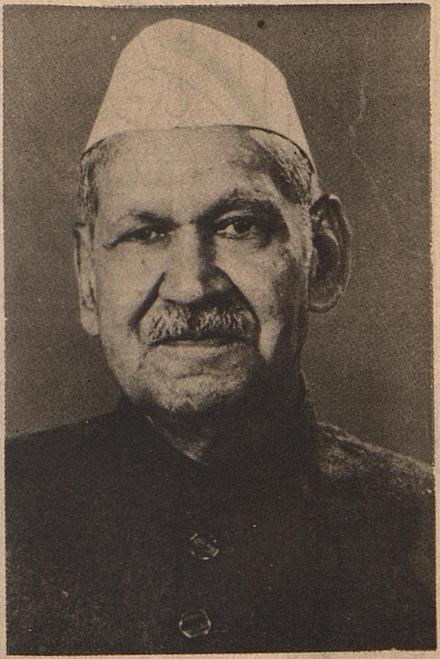
A Monthly Journal of Government of Tamil Nadu

Thiruvalluvar Year 2023

Aavani — Purattasi

SEPTEMBER - 1992

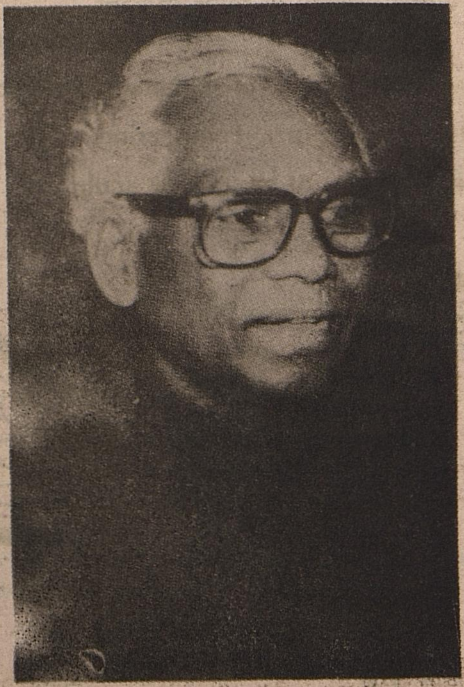
SWEARING-IN OF THE NINTH PRESIDENT



Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma was sworn in as the ninth President of the Republic by the Chief Justice of India, Justice M.H. Kania, at a solemn and ceremonial function in the Central Hall of Parliament on 25th July, 1992.

At 11.15 a.m. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma took his oath in Hindi and signed the oath form. To the sound of a 21-gun salute, Thiru R. Venkataraman then exchanged chairs with Dr. Sharma signifying the handing-over of charge as the Constitutional Head of State.

Among the dignitaries who witnessed the occasion were the Prime Minister, Members of the Council of Ministers, former Presient Thiru Giani Zail Singh, Mother Teresa, Tmt. Sonia Gandhi, the three Service Chiefs, several Chief Ministers and Governors and diplomats. The Speaker, Lok Sabha Thiru Shivraj Patil and the Deputy Chairperson Dr. Najma Heptulla, occupied the dais along with Dr. Sharma, Thiru R. Venkataraman and Justice Kania, Tmt. Janaki Venkataraman and Tmt. Vimala Sharma were also present.



Vice-President Sworn in

Thiru K.R. Narayanan was sworn in as the New Vice-President of India on 21st August 1992 at a colourful ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The oath of office was administered by the President of India, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. A little later he took charge as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Soon after the oath, Thiru K.R. Narayanan signed the oath register and then was congratulated by the Prime Minister.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY WELFARE

I have great pleasure in participating in the meeting of the Committee of the National Development Council on Population and Family Welfare today. I consider the nomination of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to this Committee, a tribute to the welldefinedhealth policies of the State Government and their systematic and successful implementation.

There is no doubt that measures for the control of population should become the focal point of all our development policies. Unrestrained population growth poses a serious threat to the very quality of life of the people. The capacity of the economy to provide for a satisfactory life for a population that grows at a fast pace is extremely limited. Not only the present population level, but also the projected population growth casts a very heavy burden on the resources of the Nation. What little we are gaining by way of economic growth in terms of production and productivity, we are losing in the context of a stupendous addition to the population that this country is making every year.

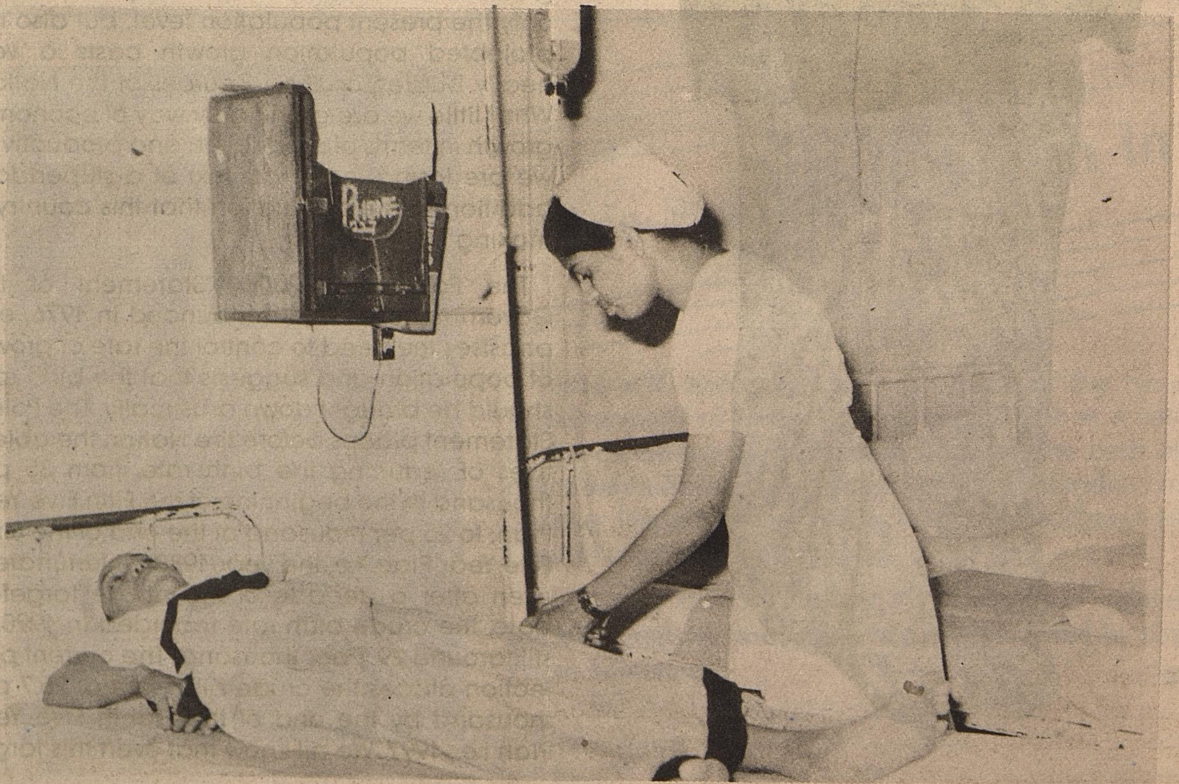
The Population Policy Statement of the Government of India announced in 1976, emphasises the need to control the rate of growth of population and suggests that the birth rate should be brought down drastically. The Policy Statement places before the Nation the objectives of reducing the birth rate, from 35 per thousand in the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan, to 25 per thousand at the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan. i.e. the year 1980. Unfortunately, even after a decade of the above targeted date, the crude birth rate recorded in 1990, is still around 29.1 per thousand. The current projection places the crude birth rate at 26.7 per thousand by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan i.e., 1997. We all know that even this target

poses a considerable challenge to all of us, because the base population has vastly increased in the interregnum.

I am of the view that the Population Policy should go beyond a mere declaration of our intentions. I would like to stress that the Population Programme should become a National Movement without any delay. National Movement should encompass people of all walks of life, from the National level to the village level, and should include all the citizens of this Country without distinction of caste, creed or religion. The situation obtaining is grave, but there is reason for optimism, because there have been many success stories in the implementation of the Population Programme.

Some States have recorded spectacular achievements in this regard. The States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have reduced the crude birth rate to 19.0 per thousand, 22.4 per thousand, and 25.6 per thousand respectively, in the year 1990 a remarkable achievement, considering the many complexities of population control. But the crude birth rate still ranges above 30 per thousand in States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Haryana. I am told that Uttar Pradesh tops the list at 35.7 per thousand in 1990. The Government of India is aware of this problem and has selected 90 districts in the country, where the birth rate is 40 per thousand and above, and is concentrating all efforts there, to bring down the rate of growth of population. Be that as it may, I am still of the view that what we need today is an integrated approach that covers the whole country, employs the official as well as the non-official machinery, to spread the message of Population Control and Family Welfare, down to the private citizen's level, and helps him to take appropriate decisions with regard to his own family size. This is a vast problem and it calls for a firm will to plan and to execute the policies. It requires a fresh enunciation of the National Population Policy. It demands a National debate at all forums, so that people in all walks of life are brought together at appropriate levels, to discuss the issues and to provide fresh solutions, with the Governments at the centre and the Sates providing all the infrastructure.

I have analysed the magnitude of this task in our own State. In the year 1990, the District of Periyar in Tamil Nadu recorded the lowest birth rate of 15.7 per thousand. Coimbatore District following with 17.0 per thousand Dharmapuri and South Arcot recorded the highest birth rate each of 23.6 per thousand, which is still



lower than the national level. The interaction between economic development and social and personal improvement is very evident in our examples. The better economic opportunities that people enjoyed in Periyar and Coimbatore Districts have also contributed to a lower rate of growth of population. The largely agricultural Districts of Dharmapuri and South Arcot have higher rates of growth and they are more backward. The healthier economicc situation has helped to improve the standard of life, which in turn has resulted in better awarness regarding the preferable size of the family. The lesson to be drawn is that while in the short run, specific population control measures may be useful, in the long run, the emphasis should be upon better education, better economic opportunities and creation of employment for the teeming masses of our rural people.

There are some other related issues which I would like to bring to the notice of this Sub-Committee. In my speech before the National Development Council at its meeting in May, 1992, I had said that the success achieved by the Tamil Nadu Government in Population Limitation, instead of being rewarded, seems to result in a denial of scarce resources. I suggested that in allocating resources to States with a per capita income below the national average, under the modified Gadgil formula, the computation of income may be done with reference to the 1971 population of the States. This would be consistent with the practice being adopted for distribution of the 60% component based on population. I would request that in the transfer of resources recommended by the Finance Commission, wherever the per capita income is employed, the 1971 population figures alone should be utilised.

I would call for positive incentives to be given to States which achieved **distinct** results in population limitation measures. The working Group on Population Projection and Family Welfare for the Eighth Five Year Plan, has unfortunately not agreed to the provision of such incentives to the States. On the other hand, the document of the working Group calls for community participation. While the ultimate aim is to bring about the participation of the community, there is no doubt that at all levels, there should be a clear recognition of the distinct responsibility which the people individually have to assume, in order to bring about the desired results. This

does call for recognition of individual effort, as well as community effort. I am aware of the possible misuse of the incentives, but the answer is not to give up incentives altogether, but to formulate incentive schemes in such a way that awards and recognition are given to the right persons. I would also like to suggest that the incentives can be such as to benefit the community as a whole, by creating assets which serve as a reminder to the people, that such assets are the direct result of their participation in a national programme. I would also like to strongly recommend revival of the scheme of special prizes, to the State Governments which maintain a certain critical level of family welfare targets.

There is a pressing need to involve leaders of all walks of life in the family welfare programme. A mass Movememt to advocate family welfare is the need of the hour. We are not thinking in terms of compulsory or arbitrary

sterilisation programmes. We must think in terms of reaching every individual in the privacy of his home, where the benefits of the small family norm can be explained, and the couple can practice the small family norm in their own interest, as well as in the interest of the community. We have the example of the success of the Total Literacy Campaign. The entire community is being involved in the Total Literacy Campaign. Similarly, I suggest that a campaign for National Family Welfare should be launched in the whole country, involving individuals as well as the whole community, backed by the support of professionals both from the Government and from the private sector. A campaign of such dimensions alone will help us to meet this challenge successfully.

In this connection, I would like to mention the success story of Tamil Nadu, in developing a Plan of Action for Total Health Care. We have organised about ten **thousand** Health Care Camps during the last 6 months, once in a week, every week, at sub-centre level. This provided excellent opportunities for the Doctors, Paramedical and Health Staff to provide services like antenatal registration, anti-tetanus injection, issue of vitamin tablets, immunisation of children, medical care of needy patients etc. These camps were also utilised to spread the message of the small family norm among the people who attended the camps. We mobilise medical personnel from the private sector as well. There was great enthusiasm shown by the people in attending these camps, and the benefits accruing to the community from these camps have been qualitatively of a high order.

I consider that the role played by the District Administration under the leadership of the District Collector, will be pivotal to the success of this programme. We may envisage a

massive Family Welfare Scheme in the Districts, and vest the leadership with the District Collector. The Collector should be given enough administrative control over other heads of offices in the District, and also freedom to mobilise the services of voluntary agencies.

Finally, the success of the Family Welfare Programme depends upon the active communication link between the acceptor and the Government staff at the field level. There is a Village Health Nurse or a Multi-purpose Health Worker for every 5000 people throughout the country. The multi-purpose Health Worker will have to play a crucial role. She should be able to win the confidence of the people on a day-to-day basis. Her role must be strengthened and her capabilities improved by training programmes. The Government of India should also consider releasing funds for the supply of drugs for common ailments, which may be issued by the Multi-purpose Health Worker, so that her assistance is sought to meet the medical needs of the local people. This will, in turn help to secure improved participation of the people in the Family Welfare Programme.

The Family Limitation Programme should be a Total Family Welfare Programme. It should provide for the proper education of the people in the various health aspects relevant to their personal lives. The close relationship between economic welfare and family welfare must be driven home at the individual acceptor level by well-meaning people, including the Government Agencies, on the basis of a sustained campaign.

I would like to end by urging the Central Government to revise and up-date the National Population Policy, to lay stress on the personal motivation of eligible families to lead better lives, by adopting the proper family norm. A system of incentives at all levels must be instituted. Above all, a massive campaign involving all agencies in a multi-disciplined manner, must be formulated and implemented at the District level. The leadership should vest with the Disctrict Collector and with the officials working under him/her. The field level Health Officers must be motivated, and must be enabled to play their roles effectively, through a series of systematic orientation programmes. A National Debate on Family Welfare Measures, involving leadership at all levels, is also called for.

I hope that the Committee will give suitable consideration to my suggestions.

Thank you.

(The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha's speech at the National Development Council Meeting held at New Delhi on 27th August, 1992.)

I Wrapper

FIGHT FOR STATE'S RIGHTS

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J.Jayalalitha unfurled the National Flag at Fort St.George to mark the 46th Independence Day Celebrations on 15th August, 1992.

The Chief Minister reiterated her demand to the centre to get back the Katchatheevu island in the Palk Straits, ceded to Sri Lanka.

She gave a spirited call for protecting the Nation's unity and integrity. She paid glowing tributes to our freedom fighters.

Reiterating her pledge to fulfil the ideals of Periyar, Anna, and MGR she recalled the achievements of her Government in the last one year, the B&C Mills had been reopened to benefit 8,000 workers. Standard Motors and K.C.P. Mills had been reopened.

Be it the Madras Christian College issue, Government employee's demands or mill workers demands her Government took prompt action to prevent hardship to the people. The Government, in all such instances, initiated talks with involved parties for an amicable solution, she said.

The Chief Minister said Rs.1 crore had been given to each and every Panchayat Union under the self sufficiency scheme. The State Government's industrial policy had been widely welcomed while the Public Distribution System was functioning satisfactorily.

The Chief Minister said the Government had distributed free of cost saree and dhoti to 20 lakh landless agricultural labourers at an expense of Rs.42 crore.

The Government was committed to women's welfare, she said and credited the job scheme to benefit 1 lakh women. Steps were being taken to better the lot of backward classes and tribals.

The Government was setting up industrial estates with 200 units, exclusively for Adi-Dravidas in Periyar and Coimbatore Districts.

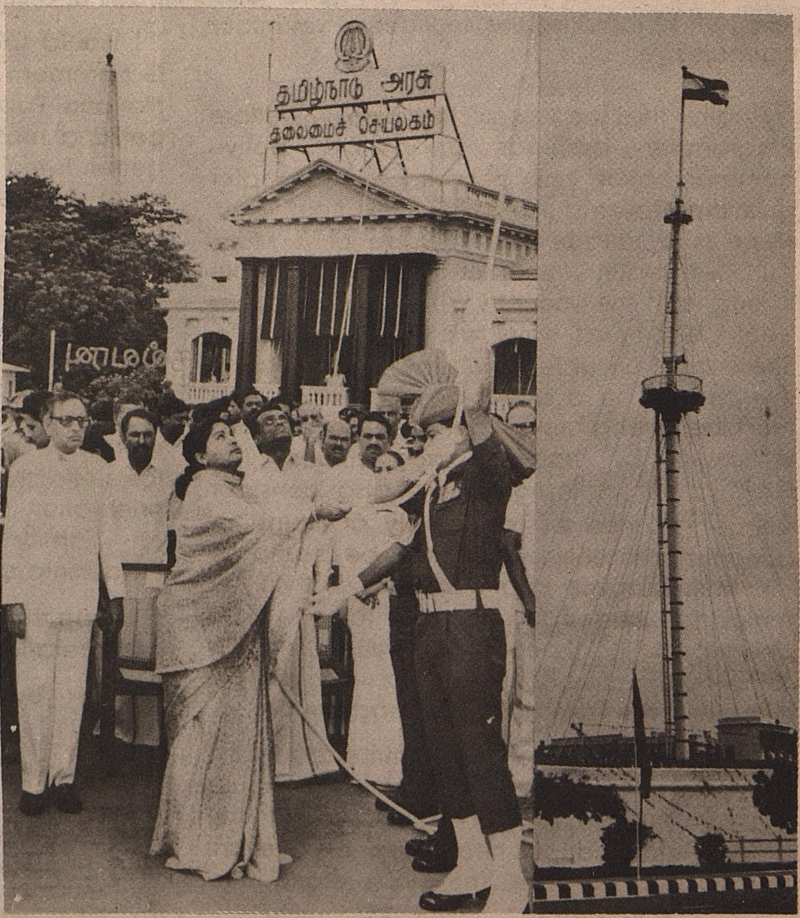
The Government had demanded implementation of Mandal Commission recommendations and raising reservation percentage from 27% to 50%. A resolution had been adopted in the State Assembly to this effect, she said.

On the health front, her Government had launched the mobile medical camps project to reach out to the poorest of the poor in remotest villages. The renovation and maintenance of temples was being given importance. The grain position was satisfactory at 90.7 lakh tonnes this year, she added.

Stating that her Government would not swerve from its commitments she said her mass contact programmes, under whih she met members of the public, enabled her to take prompt action to redress people's grievances.

The Chief Minister announced that the cash grant given to gallantry and non- gallantry award winners in the services from Tamil Nadu, given from 1990 onwards, would now be extended to cover award winners from 1947. This would benefit 207 servicemen who would receive Rs.5,81,000.

The Chief Minister said her Government had recently announced hike in pension for freedom fighters to Rs.1,000 every



Officer-in-charge, Air Commodore R.S. Sehgal, VSM Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station, Tambaram, S. Sripal, I.P.S., Director General of Police, K.K. Rajasekaran Nair, I.P.S., Director General of Police (Intelligence) W.I. Davaram, I.P.S., Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) R. Rajagpalan, I.P.S., City Commissioner of Police and Thiru Suresh Krishna, Sheriff of Madras.

She received the guard of honour and took the salute.

The Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Deputy Speaker Thiru Ponnusamy, all the Ministers of the Cabinet, Text Book Society Chairperson Tmt. Sulochana Sampath, Slum Clearance Board Chairperson Tmt. Valarmathi, Fisheries Corporation Chairman Thiru J. Balan, Chief Whip Thiru Pattabhiraman, Special representative in New Delhi, Thiru Thambi Durai, Freedom Fighter Thiru Ma.Po.Sivagnanam, MPs Thiru S. Sridharan and Thiru Srinivasan and former Chief Secretary Thiru C. Sabanayagam were among those present.

Later the Chief Minister distributed food pockets to handicapped children and the poor.

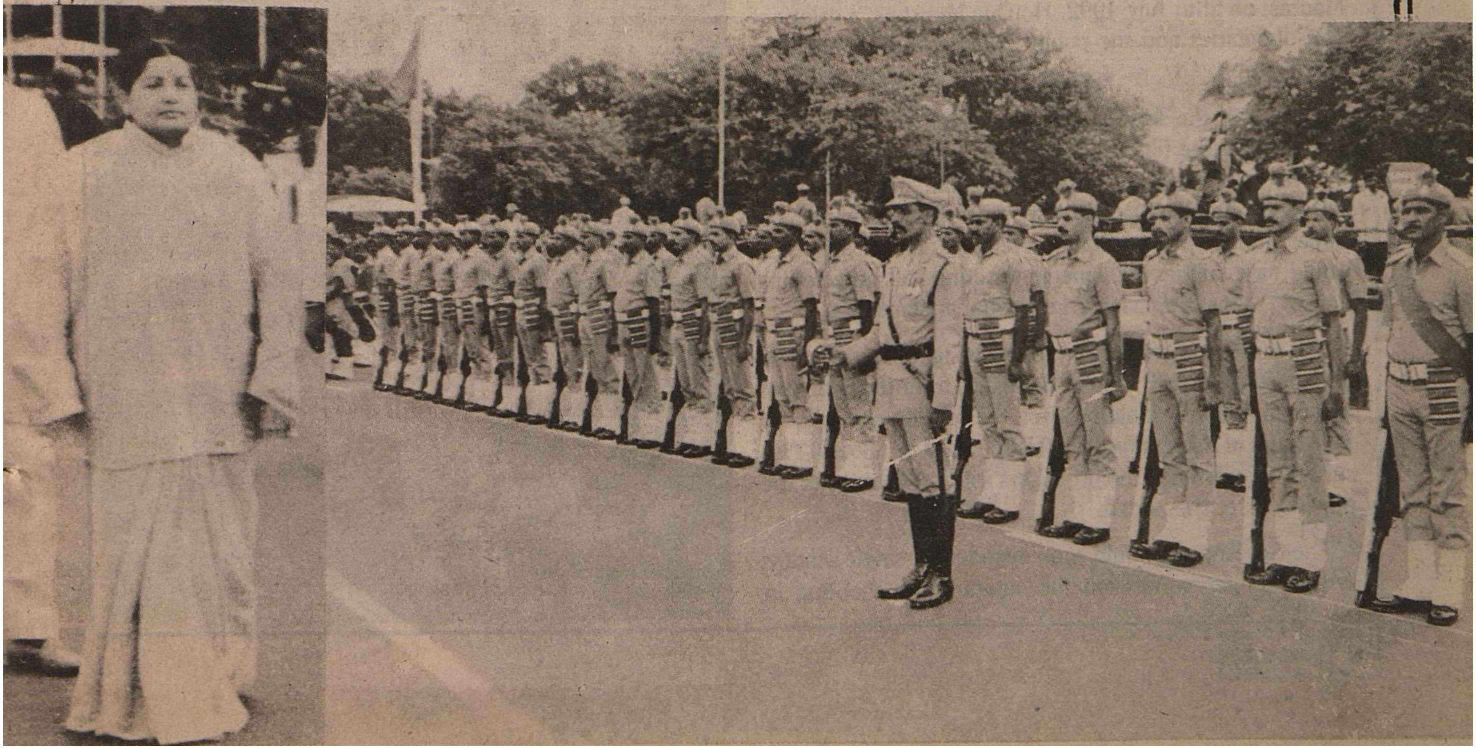
month. They were also entitled to free travel in Government buses.

Other measures taken for the welfare of the people included grant of Rs.20,000 for heart surgery for poor patients, free rice on a weekly basis for those drawing old age pension and Rs.250 on a monthly basis for families of handloom weavers who died in harness.

She urged the people to co-operate fully with the Government.

Earlier the Chief Minister was received at the saluting base by Thiru T.V. Venkataraman, I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government.

She was introduced by Major General V. Mulye, General Officer Commanding, Headquaters, Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Goa area, Brig. K.K. Kapahi, VSM Commander, Tamil Nadu and Kerala sub-area, Commodore N. Sahney, NM Naval



THE CHIEF MINISTER HONOURED

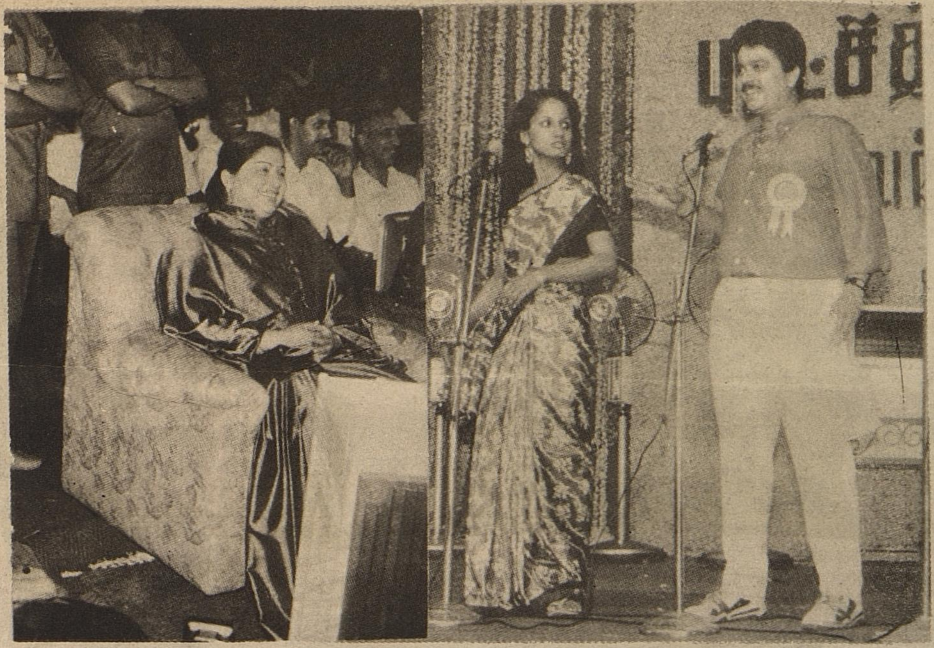
The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha was honoured at a grand function arranged by the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce. The function was held at the University Centenary Hall, Madras, on 25th July, 1992. Hon'ble Ministers, a galaxy of film dignitaries and the public in large number attended the function.

Accepting the felicitations, the Chief Minister, in her speech, said the film city being built at Tharamani would be over by the next year. She said the film city would have setting for Railway Station, Airport, Park, Swimming Pool, Super Market, Police Station, Temples and Hospitals. It would have failities like cinema shooting hall, rerecroding and [illegible] theatres having international standards.

She said the subsidy given to low budget films would be enhanced from Rs.2 lakh to Rs.3 lakh from this year. Not less than 50 films would be given the subsidy, she said, for this a sum of Rs.1 crore and 50 lakh would be alloted. This subsidy would reach the producers within 3 months of the films [illegible]se, she added.

The Government would soon introduce a 'single window system' to get permission for outdoor film shooting in Government owned places. Presently they had to go to different departments to get permission.

She said the Government would soon issue orders enabl-



ing the theatre owners to collect as service charges from the viewers 25 paise for the airconditioned theatres and 10 paise for non-airconditioned theatre halls. She said certain places in Madras city would be selected and announced later for pasting cinema posters.

She said the Government would give Rs.10,000 to families of the film worker who die during film shooting and Rs.5,000 to the injured person.

The Chief Minister said that representation would be given to workers federation in Regional Labour Advisory Committee and on best artiste selection panel.

On her arrival the Chief Minister was given a warm welcome by the film dignitaries. Thiru M.S. Viswanathan and his troupe delighted the audience with a musical concert. That was followed by Kuchipudi dance performance by film artiste Selvi. Banupriya and comedy acts by Thiru S.V. Sekar - Cinni Jayanth and Thiru Goundamani Senthil.

Thiru A. Ramesh, President, South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce welcomed the gathering and on behalf of the film world, presented a shawl to the Chief Minister.

Film dignitaries, Thiru Rajinikanth, Thiru Kamalhasan, Thiru K. Bagyaraj, Thiru A. S. Prakasam, Thiru Sridhar, Thiru K. Balaji, Thiru Radha Ravi, Thiru Mohan Gandhi Raman, Thiru Prabhu, Thiru Karthik, Thiru Barathiraja, Thiru Vijayakanth, Thiru P. Vasu, Thiru M.N. Nambiar, Thiru Muktha Srinivasan, Thiru Sathyaraj, Dr. K. Jakkiah (former M.P.) Thiru A.C. Thirulokachandar, Thiru P. Madavan, Thiru T. Ramanujam, Tmt. M.N. Rajam, Tmt. Pandaribai and Tmt. Manorama offered felicitations to the Chief Minister.

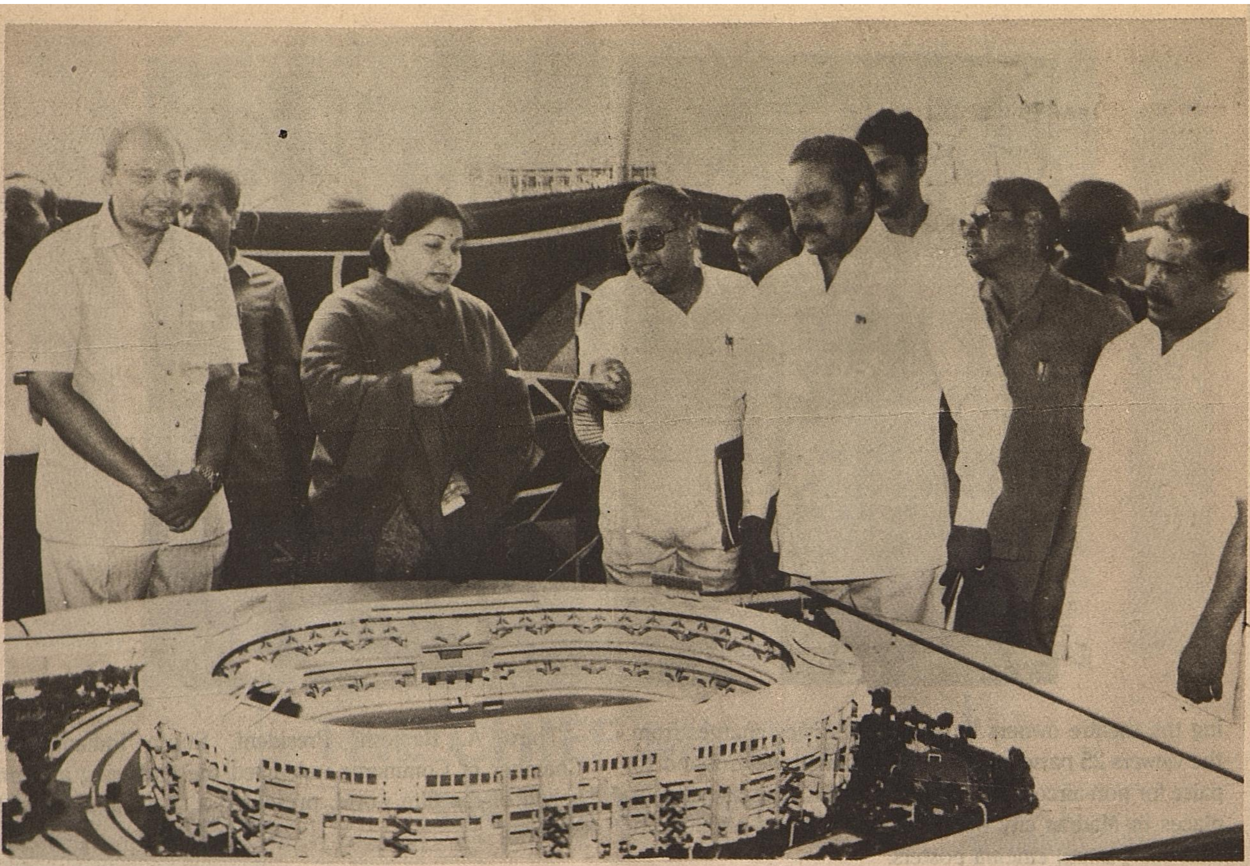
Thiru Ramanathan, Secretary, South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce proposed a vote of thanks.

GOVERNMENT TO START TWO SCHOOLS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

On 29th August 1992, Thiru C.Aranganayagam, Minister for Education said that the State Government proposes to start two schools for the hearing impaired and necessary orders have been issued to this effect.

"In a nutshell, alcohol ruins one physicaly, morally, intellectually and economically".

- Mahatma Gandhi



An Ultra - Modern Multipurpose Stadium at Nehru Stadium Site

It has been proposed to construct an Ultra-Modern Multi-purpose Stadium of International Standards at the site of the existing Nehru Stadium and host the 10th Jawaharlal Nehru Gold Cup International Football Tournament in January 1993 at Madras.

The Government in G.O.Ms.No. 47, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, dated 4.3.92 constituted the Organising Committee consisting of 25 members with Honourable Chief Minister as Chairperson and the same has been registered under the Societies Registration Act 1975.

In view of the severe time constraint Messrs. C.R. Narayana Rao, as Architects and L&T Ltd. ECC Group as Engineers and Builders for the Nehru Stadium Project were provisionally appointed for Project.

The Board of Management has to finalise the strategy for fund raising for financing the Project.

So far, the Government of Tamil Nadu has released Rs.5 crore. Rs.2 crore have been received from Government of India. As against the total Project cost of Rs.30 crore, Rs.23 crore is yet to be mobilised. This is a gigantic task. We have to finalise the approach to raise this massive quantum of money, **within the next two months.** Honourable Chief Minister was pleased to issue an appeal through Press during April 1992 inviting Public Donations. So far, a total amount of Rs.16 lakh have been received through Public Donations.

Income-Tax Exemption for Public Donations have also been obtained under Section 80 G from Income-Tax Department vide their Letter No. DIT(E)/2(34)/92-93, dated 15.6.92.

For the completion of the Project within the stipulated time, money is the most critical factor.

Therefore, an effective campaign to mobilise further resources through public donations have to be launched.

The proposed ultra modern multipurpose stadium cum shopping complex to be located at the site of the present Nehru Stadium premises is to be among the best stadiums in India. Its design responds to the very latest international standards for the design of sports facilities in all respects.

Sports Facility

★ International size football field with 8 lane athletic track with provision for all track and field events also - Shotput, High Jump, Discus, Hammer Throw, Javelin, Steeple Chase etc.

★ Track with synthetic surface.

Capacity

★ 40,000 Spectators.

★ 500 VVIPs, VIPs, Special guests.

★ 500 Media personal.

Public Facility

★ Comfortable viewing angle for all seating areas.

★ Independent Toilets, Stalls and protected drinking Water for both upper and lower gallery.

★ Covered seating on polypropylene bucket seats for upto 30,000 spectators.

Match Facility

★ Extensive organising committee facility including conference room for 100 persons.

★ Separate rooms with required attached and independent toilets for Match Delegates, Referees, Medical Examination.

★ Also includes Physiotherapy and Dope testing rooms.

★ Separate Players lockers, Toilets.

★ Airconditioned

★ Restricted subway entry for players and match delegates.

VIP Area

★ Restricted access from main road with independent parking and lifts for VIP movement.

★ Includes VIP lounge and lobby with cafeteria.

★ A/C conference room with buffet catering facilities.

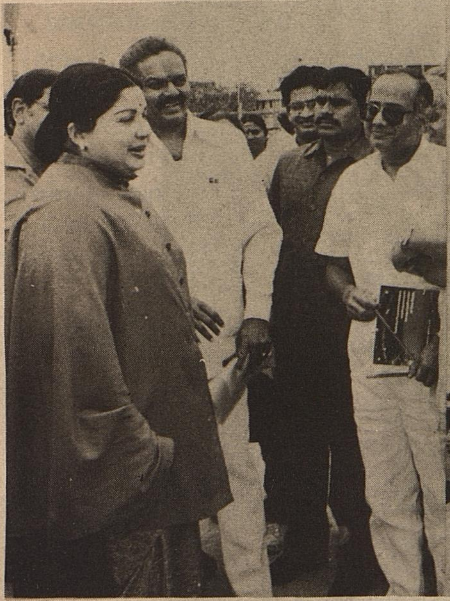
★ Provision to VVIP boxes.

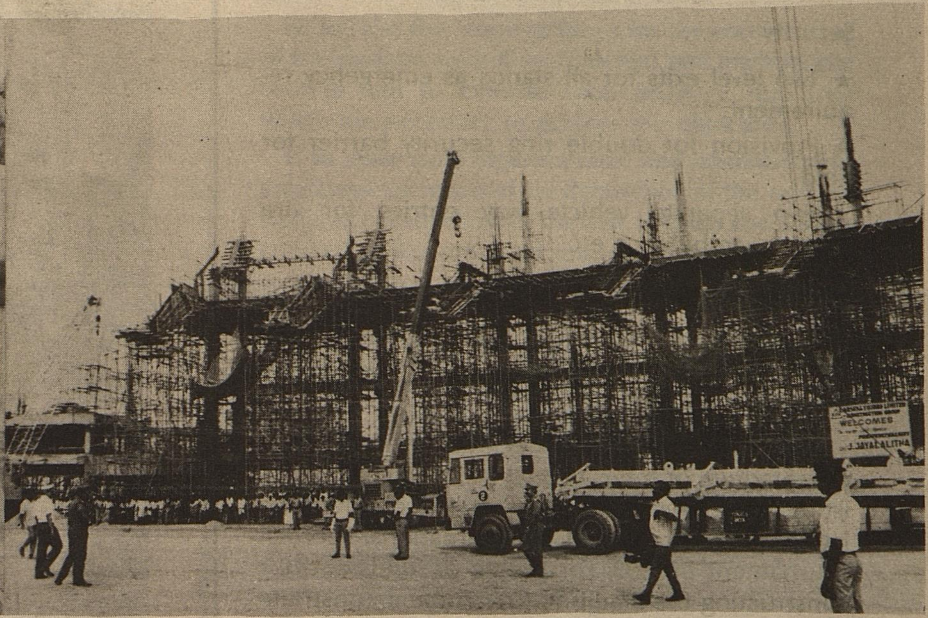
Media Area

★ Controlled entry.

★ Extensive media tele communication facilities like Telex, Fax, Telephones etc.

★ Independent viewing gallery to allow media personnel seated on work stations.





★ Separate A/C Media Restaurant over looking field.

★ TV commentators enclosure and main camera platform.

Training Infrastructure

★ Fully equipped dormitory accommodation for both men and women upto 150 people with modern kitchen and catering systems.

★ Will also include guest accommodation in separate double rooms with full attached facilities.

★ Fully equipped indoor Gymnasium and Warm up rooms.

★ Separate rooms for individual Sports Associations with common conference facility.

Lighting

★ World class arena lighting system to allow inter-

national colour TV coverage.

★ Horizontal and Vertical illumination level as per CIE specifications.

★ Uniformity in lighting levels and glare control to international CIE specifications.

★ System to use mast lighting and roof mounted line lighting.

★ 3 level switching for colour TV coverage, competition, Training for energy efficiency.

★ Emergency lighting system.

★ Provision for generator set.

Public Address System

★ Public Address System with emergency back up and zoning for individual areas of stadium.

★ Includes Main and Selective announcement system with car calling facility.

Security

★ Two level exits for all stands as emergency requirement.

★ Provision for double ring security barrier for field.

★ Two separate vehicle way entries for fire fighting, ambulance etc.

Shopping Complex

★ Shopping Complex on ground floor with covered and open shopping arcades along the main stadium frontage.

The Government have decided to construct a new Stadium of International Standards, in the existing place of Nehru Stadium to conduct 10th Jawaharlal Nehru Gold Cup International Football Tournament in 1993. For raising of funds and for constructing the Stadium, Government constitute a Committee with the following as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other Members.

Hon'ble Chief Minister
- Chairperson.
Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration
- Vice-Chairman

Members:

Chief Secretary to Government
Secretary to Government Finance Department
Secretary to Government Home Department
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Secretary to Government Municipal
Administration and Water Supply Department - Member Secretary

Members:

Secretary to Government Education Department
Director General of Police
Inspector General of Police, Law and Order
Sepcial Officer, Corporation of Madras
Commissioner, Corporation of Madras
Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Sports

Development Corporation

Thiru M. Gopalakrishnan Chairman & Managing Director, Indian Bank

Thiru B. Sivandhi Adityan, President, Indian Olympic Association

Thiru M.A.M. Ramasamy, Industrialist

Thiru A.C. Muthiah, Industrialist

Thiru L.G. Ramamurthy, Industrialist, President, Tamil Nadu Football Association

Thiru R. Palaniappan, Industrialist, Chairman, Tamil Nadu Foot Ball Association, High Power Committee.

Thiru C.R. Viswanathan, President, Tamil Nadu Olympic Association and Convener, Tamil Nadu Football Association, High Power Committee

Thiru K. Murugan, Joint Secretary, Indian Olympic Association and Secretary, Tamil Nadu Olympic Association.

Thiru H. Krishnamurthy, Managing Director, Madras Refineries Ltd.

Thiru Venu Srinivasan, Sundaram Clayton Ltd.

Thiru L. Budda Singh, Regional Manager, Indian Tobacco Co.,

The Chief Engineer (Buildings), Public Works Department, Chepauk, Madras-600 005.

The Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department will be the Member-Secretary of the Committee. He is authorised to receive donations on behalf of the Committee and remit them in the Indian Bank by opening a separate account for the purpose.

The functions of the Committee would be as follows:-

i. to take over this Stadium for demolition;

ii. to construct a New Stadium in the place of existing one;

iii. to conduct 10th Jawarharlal Nehru Gold Cup Foot Ball Tournament in January, 1993;

iv. to raise the required funds for the construction of the stadium from Governmental and institutional sources and to exercise such financial functions which are necessary to achieve the objectives;

v. to make such organisational and administrative arrangements required for demolition of the existing stadium, construction of the new stadium and for the conduct of the proposed tournament: ●

Rs. 18 lakh for Temple Renovation work

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha has sanctioned Rs.18 lakh for renovation work at the Bakthavachaleswarar temple in Thirukazhukundram. Of the sanctioned amount, Rs.3 lakh has been earmarked for Laksha Deepam, Rs.10 lakh for Rajagopuram renovation and Rs.5 lakh for making temple chariot. ●

Rs.425 crore for Social Welfare Schemes

The Tamil Nadu Government proposes to spend Rs.425 crore for implementing various programmes under the Social Welfare Department this year.

The Government was spending over Rs.300 crore for the noon meal scheme covering more than 85 lakh children and 2.5 lakh aged persons.

The Social Welfare Department was chalking out and implementing novel welfare schemes particularly for women. ●

STATUE FOR PASUMPON MUTHURAMALINGA THEVAR IN MADRAS

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi J. Jayalalitha announced on 23rd August 1992 that a statue for Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar will be installed in Madras and the Town Panchayat Bus Stand at Usilampatti will be named after him.

By way of respecting the sentiments of Usilampatti people and as a token of her respect to the late leader and affection towards the Thevar Community she had taken these decisions, she added.

The Tamil Nadu Thevar Peravai and the Pasumpon Thevar Statue Installation Committee have thanked the Chief Minister, for renaming the Usilampatti Bus Stand after Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar and for the announcement that his statue would be put in the city. ●

TOTAL PROHIBITION OUR GOAL

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J.Jayalalitha on 25th August 1992 released and commended the video casette titled 'Vaazhavaitha Deivangale Vaazhga' produced by Thiru C. Aranganayagam, Minister for Education, as a milestone in the Government's efforts to achieve total prohibition, at a function held at Kamarajar Memorial Hall, Teynampet, Madras. The first copy of the Video Casette was received by Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

The Chief Minister in her address declared that the Government was committed to its policy of total prohibition and the anti-liquor propaganda undertaken by it was directed towards this end. Total Prohibition could not be achieved by legislation alone. The Government was therefore engaged in reforming liquor addicts. Any attempt to change society strictly through law could affect the poor and the innocent adversely, she added.

She also pointed out that although cheap liquor shops had been closed and a drive against illicit liquor launched the Government was conscious that total prohibition had not been achieved yet.

The prohibition propaganda committee constituted by the Government and headed by the Chief Minister was engaged in achieving this end. The evil of drink and its potential to destroy a whole society was being explained to the people. A Prohibition propaganda drama 'Velicham' had already been launched by the Government and a prohibition propaganda film 'Neenga Nalla Irukkanam' was in the making.

Thiru C. Aranganayagam, Minister for Education said Video was a powerful medium and could be used effectively for Prohibition propaganda.

Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, presided and complemented the Government for closing the Cheap liquor shops despite a revenue loss of over Rs.320 crore.

A ballet, 'Dravida Sakthi' which portrayed the Chief Minister's role in the Dravidian movement, was performed on the occasion. The Chief Minister gave away mementos to the video actors and the ballet performers. ●

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha laid the foundation stone for a memorial pillar, to be erected at Gandhi Mandapam, Guindy, at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Quit India Movement held at Kalaivanar Arangam on 9th August, 1992.

The Chief Minister also unveiled a plaque in memory of those who sacrificed themselves in the cause of the Nation and announced generous increase in the pension amounts of freedom fighters.

The Chief Minister confined herself to hailing the sacrifices of the millions of the freedom struggle. She pointed out that no single party, religion, community, region or linguistic group could claim credit for securing the Independence.

The Chief Minister said 1,706 freedom fighters who received the Centre's pension of Rs.750 would now get an additional Rs.250 a month. The 4,023 others getting a pension of Rs.850 (Centre's 750 plus State's Rs.100) would get an additional Rs.150 a month. And the 6,681 State pensioners would now receive Rs.1,000 a month, an increase of Rs.400.

The Government had also passed orders increasing the family pension of the freedom fighters from Rs.400 to Rs.500. Though the State Government faced financial crisis, it had decided to bear an additional expenditure of Rs.6.38 crore on account of the pension increase, she added.

The Government had also decided to issue free bus passes to all the State freedom fighters. "I am aware that there are some more demands of the freedom fighters. All your pension demands will be duly considered", she added.

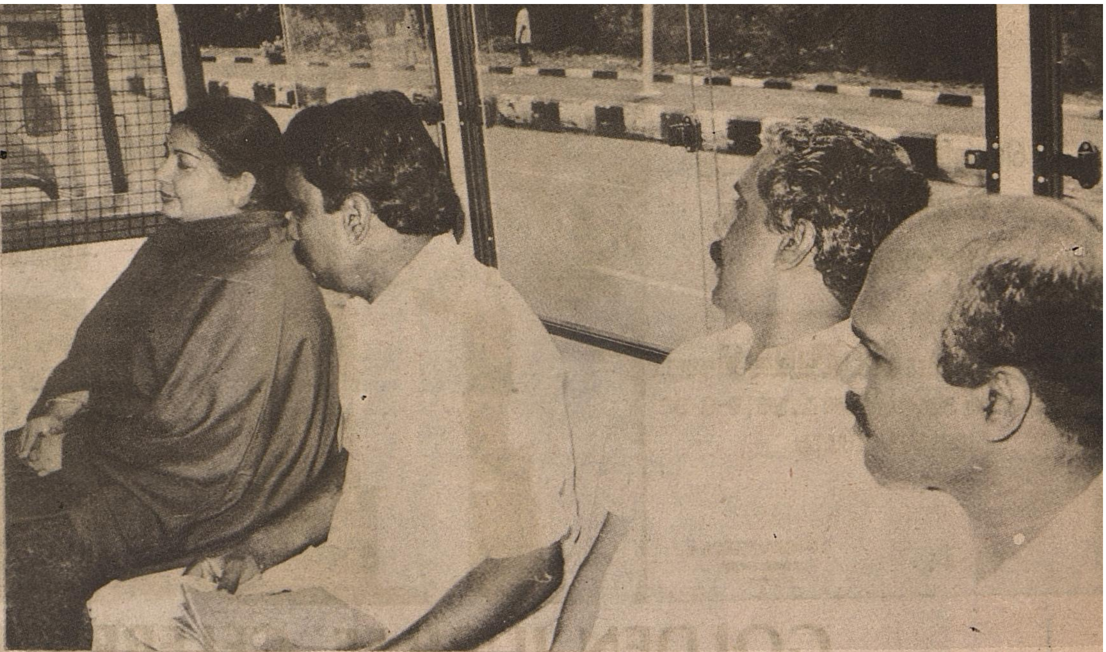
The Chief Minister honoured about 1000 freedom fighters present, with a shawl, a Thanjavur plate and a suit case. The other State freedom fighters who could not attend the function would be similarly honoured on August 15, in their respective Districts through the District Collectors.

TNCC-I President Vazhapadi Thiru K. Ramamurthy, thanked the Chief Minister for honouring the freedom fighters.

Among others who spoke were Thiru Ma.Po.Sivagnanam, Thiru Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Dr. V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, Minister for Finance and Thiru T.V. Venkataraman, I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government.

Thiru K.A. Krishnasamy, Minister for Law, welcomed the gathering and Thiru P. Bhaskara Das, I.A.S., Secretary, Public Department, proposed a vote of thanks. ●

BATTERY-POWERED VEHICLE FOR ZOO



A battery-powered vehicle has been gifted to the Arignar Anna Zoological Park at Vandalur by the State Transport Corporations for the benefit of visitors.

With a seating capacity of 18, the pollution free vehicle can be operated at a maximum speed of 40 k.m per hour and can run for 70 k.m. at a stretch without the battery being re-charged.

Thiru K.A. Sengottayan, Minister for Transport and Forests, formally handed- over the keys of the vehicle at a function at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park to the Environment and Forests Secretary, Thiru A.P. Muthusamy, I.A.S., on 2nd August 1992.

Detailing the steps taken by the Government to protect the forest cover in the State, the Minister said two more battery-operated vehicles would shortly be made available to the Zoo which would undergo improvements at a cost of Rs.25 lakh during the year.

He also said that the Zoo would get in the next few months a number of animals, including a giraffe and a white tiger. The Zoo would introduce within a month Camel ride for the visitiors, he added. ●

DIGITAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE INAUGURATED AT SECRETARIAT

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha inaugurated the Rs.41 lakh electronic exchange at the Secretariat on 27th July 1992. The Chief Minister unveiled a plaque and cut a ribbon to mark the opening of the building housing the exchange. She made the first call to Thiru R. Narayanan, Executive Director of Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore, marking the commissioning of the exchange.

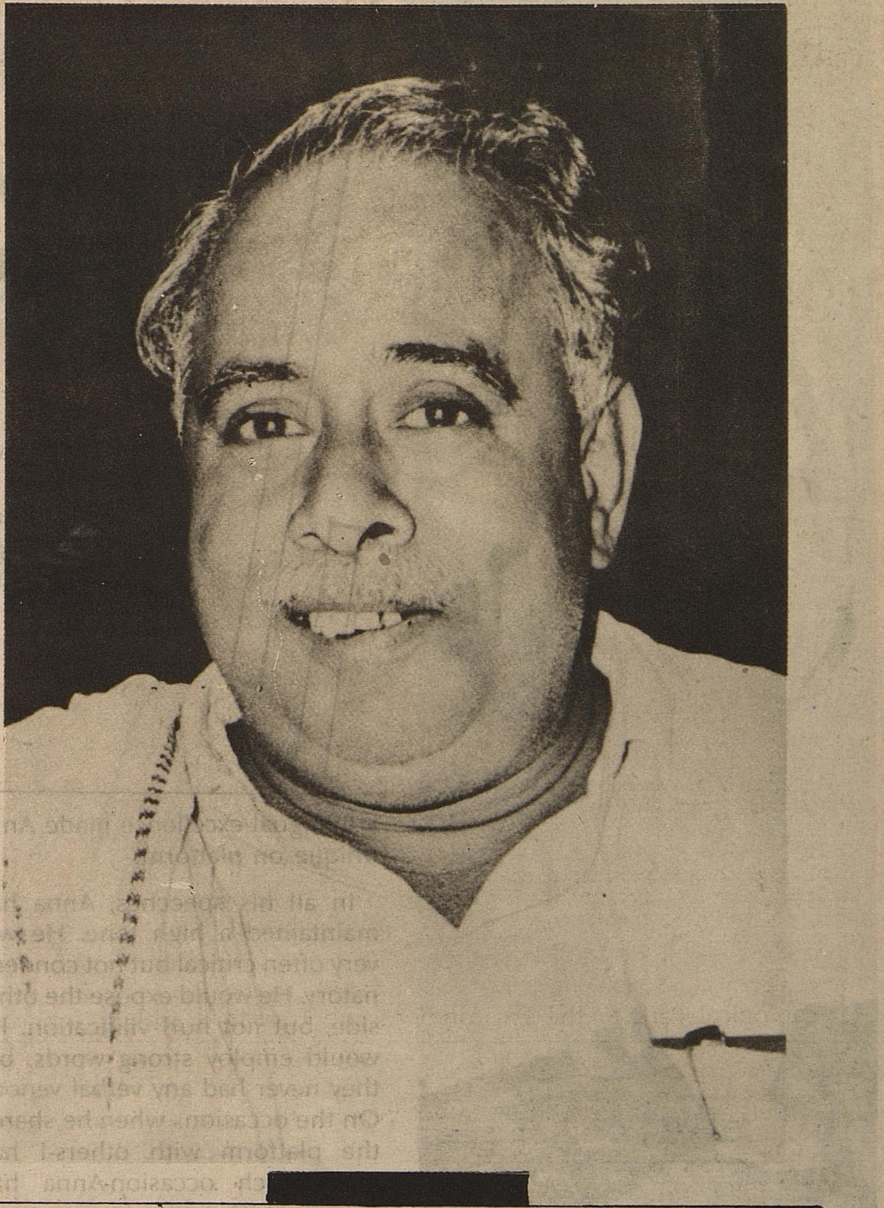
The exchange was installed at the ground floor of the Namakkal Kavignar Maligai, Fort St.George, Madras.

The electronic exchange has the capacity of 512 lines which can be expanded upto 2000 lines.

The new system designed and developed indigenously, provides for facilities including call consultation (a person can contact any extention or operator in the middle of his conversation), auto call back, call transfer, call forwarding and malicious call tracing. ●

Anna's School of Oratory

Thiru T. Chengalvarayan



Anna's name and fame arose out of many splendorous qualities which are well known and they can bear repetitive references and serve as a magnifiicent model for all to follow in our political life and public service. But it is desirable and necessary to just study and understand the greatness of his speeches. There are many aspirants for practicising the fine art of public speaking and many have tried to imitate his style, but few have succeeded in imbibing the nobility of his speeches.

Anna's exuberance of speech was based upon a wide range of scholarship. His study and understanding of political classics, literary pieces, economic systems and social science gave him the broad basis for the sway of his speeches. His great grasp of Tamil Literature afforded him the material for his fine speeches. His scholarship was not pedantic but philosophic. His speeches were neither a diarrhoea of words, nor they suffered from constipation of thoughts. His speeches were marked and measured in both matter and manner.

In order to be an effective speaker one should have firm conviction in his ideas and measage. In order to convice the audience, the speaker must have conviction in what he had to say. Anna had a firm faith in his chosen ideology and the correctness of the path. But the greatness lies in his liberalism to change where events warrant such a change. I found that he was a crusader for Dravidisthan, but when the nation was threatened by Chinese invasion, he discarded the goal of separatism and took up the broad and high national stand.

A speaker should have a purpose, if it is an election meeting, he should seek the support of the people. If it is an address to the party workers, it must be to consolidate the rank and file. If it is an address to the College union, it must be to educate and enlighten the students on public affairs. If it is an address to literary circles, it must be highly critical, if it is a marriage function, it has to be felicitous. Anna had all those occasions to address and he moulded his speech according to the occasion.

Anna had developed a particular style of speaking and had made it a fine art. In mixture of words, in texture of phrases, in structure of sentences, Anna had evolved a unique pattern. His speeches had a rare felicity of diction, a neatness of arrangement, marshalling of ideas, and an appeal. He knew how to begin and more than that

Alcohol destroys our body,
our character and our wisdom.
Diseases like Malaria affect only the body
Alcohol and drugs destroy the
soul as well as the body.

- Mahatma Gandhi

he knew when to end. He was not torrential like a turbulent river. He was rippling like a bubbling brook, with softness and steady flow. His speeches will not drench the audience, but will only wet them so that what he spoke could linger long.

Anna was bilingual in speeches. He was addressing vast gatherings, in Tamil and also addressing select gatherings in English. He was as excellent in English as he was oratorical and elegant in Tamil. But the basic traits could be found in whatever language he chose. Such a bilingual excellence made Anna unique on platform.

In all his speeches, Anna had maintained a high tone. He was very often critical but not condemnatory. He would expose the other side, but not hurl vilification. He would employ strong words, but they never had any verbal venom. On the occasions when he shared the platform with others-I had many such occasion-Anna had always a high tone of respect and regard. On one occasion-we had been invited to debate on a very important subject, by a college union. Anna took up one side and I had to take up the opposite side. On such occasions, Anna always would ask me to open the debate. I never hesitated. At the end of my speech, I concluded by saying "we are now going to hear Demosthenes". I said it in sincere appreciation of Anna's speeches. Any other person, at best, would gracefully accept the compliment with thanks and proceed to speak. But Anna did not follow that Conventional way. He began his speeches by saying "we have all heard Cicero's oratory". How nicely he returned the compliment to me and that was Anna's art and heart.

In recent times, we had great National Leaders who gave the people speeches, which linger even now. We had the thundering speeches of Surendernath Banerji. We had the soul-stirring speeches of Bepin Chandra Pal. We had the magic eloquence of Annae Besant. We heard the sweet song of Sarojini Devi. All these have set up a school of oratory of a special type. Anna, in his times, by his style, by his speeches had set up a new school of oratory with alliterative words and foliage of pharses and that is the living monument for Anna. We have succeeding generations who are excelling in the art of speaking and it is necessary that while following Anna's style, they will equally follow the great dignity and glorious culture which Anna had shown. The path is yet clear. ●

HE SOWED THE SEED OF SELF RESPECT IN TAMIL NADU

PERARIGNAR ANNA

An uneducated old man. An obstinate person from his youth. An agitator who was not aware that a party set-up should follow the nature of political objective. He never bothered about the feeling of the people he hurt and that those hurt will hurl abuses. He refused to be tacktful. He was attacked by the very same persons whom he brought into the limelight. To this old man, the very idea of agitation tastes sweet. He has a long public service to his credit'. But what has he gained? Has he obtained a knighthood? Had he any opportunity to go to the States at the expense of the Government? What are his achievements. He was put in prison not less than eight times. This is Ramasami Naicker.

We are aware of the appearences of a good many extremists in the world. We are aware of speakers with gifted tongues, who have talked of atheism. We have seen heroes braving rivers of fire. We should understand great difference between these persons and Periyar.

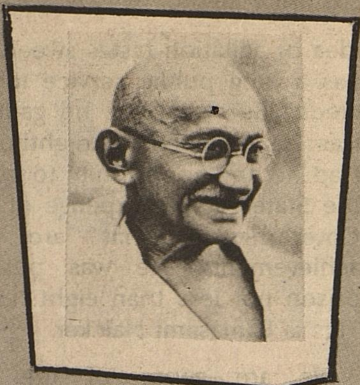
They talked and wrote among educated persons of mature understanding. Whereas Periyar's work was among the most illiterate of Tamil Nadu amongst opposition including stone throwing and mud slinging. While the all-knowing men of letters of all fields, felt helpless even to check impostors, periyar slashed through like a hurricane, uprooting various growths poisonous to society in Tamil Nadu.

Periyar has great experience in having led a number of agitations. His relationship and understanding with the general public was so certain that the wrath of the rich could not harm him.

He sowed the seed of self respect in Tamil Nadu. He has seen many a battlefield and participated in many a battle. Discarding luxurious living he lived a simple life.

Come forward to work. Don't ask me the means of livelihood. Come to rescue your community. Don't ask me whether you have the energy for it. Come, join the battle. Don't ask me when it will end. This was his war cry.

The qualities of intellectuals and revolutionaries like Socrates,



> I would rather have India reduced to a State of pauperism than have Thousands of drunkards in our midst. I would rather have India without education, if that is the price to be paid for making it dry.
>
> --Mahatma Gandhi

Lenin, Bernardshaw and Rousseau, for which they are held in great esteem are all seen together in the form of Periyar.

A good number of persons have worked along with Periyar. Throughout I had the opportunity to be with him, more than the others. They have been very sweet days for me. Even as I recall them today, I derive great pleasure.

During the conversations he has come out with a number of thought provoking ideas. He taught me the art of fortifying my heart against hardships. He induced in me a great interest, pleasure and satisfaction in public service.

I found and accepted the leadership of this sole leader.

His life was a continuous struggle to uphold the right to speak what he felt at any cost. His success in this struggle was tremendous. He was not the sole person to enjoy the fruits of his success. Today, one and all enjoy the fruits of his labour. In Tamil Nadu, a state prevails, when one can express his views freely. This is the first phase of the success of an intellectual revolution. Periyar and Periyar alone is responsible for this. The service rendered by him to achieve this success is very appreciable.

And therefore, I generally refer to it - the great service rendered by Periyar is not the work of an individual, but is is an era, an important period of time, a turning point.

He has seen many battlefields. The successes achieved were very many. The battle he started is still going on.

I call those days the spring in my life, the days when I had the opportunity to join him in that battle.●

THE CHIEF MINISTER DISTRIBUTED BENEFITS TO BENEFICIARIES FROM SALEM DISTRICT

The Hob'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha met the public and received petitions from the people belonging to Salem District on 4th May 1992. Of that, 520 people were selected and given assistance on 27th July 1992 by the Chief Minister.

On 27.7.92 the beneficiaries headed by the District Collector, Thiru P.A. Ramaiah, I.A.S., were escorted to Madras from Salem by special transport buses at the expense of the Government and they were given assistance amounting to Rs.41.994 lakh by the Chief Minister in person.

The assistance given through various Government schemes include sewing machines to 40 persons, iron boxes to 10, Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Marriage assistance to 51 women, Dr. Dharmambal widow remarriage assistance to 7 persons, intercaste marriage assistance to 15, marriage assistance to a blind person, the destitute women marriage scheme for 3 women and one under handicapped maintenance scheme.

N. Thillai Govindan
Information and Public Relations Officer,
Salem.

Under Integrated Rural Development Scheme 168 people were given loan with a subsidy of Rs.11.41 lakh. 3 persons were given loan for purchasing lorries with a subsidy of Rs.13.24 lakh. 15 handicapped people were given assistance through bank and loans were given to; 5 persons for purchasing bullocks, one person to buy autorickshaw, one person for manufacturing footwares, one person to establish an oil mill, one to develop mat industry and one person was given loan to start a job in book binding.

30 house pattas, 5 land pattas, marriage assistance to 2 daughters

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha called on His Excellency the President of India Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma at New Delhi on 17th August, 1992.

of ex-servicemen, financial assistance to 10 persons for maintaining sericulture unit, assistance for Khadi manufacturing unit to 20 persons and welfare assistance to 10 people were given.

Assistance for a heart surgery from the Chief Minister's relief fund, Widows assistance fund to 5 women and hand sprayer to 5 people were distributed.

Tricycles for the physically handicapped for 20 persons, hearing aid for 5 persons, caliber for 12 persons, wheel chair for one physically handicapped, free text books for 10 children of widows text books for 10 poor students and loan to 50 persons under Urban employment scheme were distributed by the Chief Minister.

Of the 520 beneficiaries 345 were women. About nine persons who had come to get the assistance from the Chief Minister requested the Chief Minister to name their babies. ●

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DRINK IS THE WORST ENEMY OF POOR INDIANS

Drunkenness is nothing but voluntary madness'', declared the wise Seneca centuries ago. In his 'Epistles'', he said: 'Drunkenness does not create vice; it merely brings it into view'.

Referring to wine and gambling the Koran says: 'Their sinfulness is greater than their use'.

Even so sagacious a scholar as Pliny the Elder, whose writings were the delight of the ancient world, observes: 'It has passed into a proverb that wisdom is clouded by wine'.

In 'Othello,' Shakespeare exclaims: 'O God, that men should put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains that we should with joy, pleasance, reveal and applause, transform ourselves into beasts.'

In his 'Essays' in which Aldous Huxley is seen at his scintillating best, he provides some explanation for the modern craving for drugs and alcohol. He says: 'In The Varieties of Religious Experience', William James has touched on these metaphysical aspects of addiction: The sway of Alcohol over mankind is unquestionable due to its power to testimulate the mystical faculties in human nature, usualy crushed to earth by the cold facts and dry criticisms of sober hour. Sobriety diminishes, discriminates and says no, Drunkenness expands, unites and says yes. It is in fact the great exciter of the yes function in man. It brings its votary from the chill periphery of things into the moment one with truth.

'To the poor and thê unlettered it stands in the place of symphony concerts and literature; and it is part of the deeper mystery and tragedy of life that whiffs and gleams of something that we immediately recognize as excellent should be vouchsafed to so many of us only through the fleeting earlier phases of what in its totality, is so degrading a poison. The drunken conciousness is one bit of mystic conciousness and our total opinion of it must find its place in our opinion of that larger whole.'

'We love ourselves to the point of idolatry, but we also intensely dislike ourselves - we find ourselves unutterably boring. Correlated with this distaste for the idolatrously worshipped self, there is in all of us a desire, sometimes latent, sometimes consciously and passinately expressed, to escape from the prison of our individuality, an urge to self- transcendence. It is to this urge that we owe mystical theology. Spiritual exercises, and yoga - to this, too, that we owe alcoholism and drug addiction.'

Mr. Justice Tek Chand, President of the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism, says: 'Extensive researches have been conducted on mortality from alcohol by insurance companies.'

In 1975, a report said: 'The problem of alcoholism is on the increase in the country, specially in Punjab where illicit liquor drinking has assumed epidemic proportions,' according to Dr.P.N. Chhuttani, Director of the Post- Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research at Chandigarh. He said previous studies had indicated that about 25 per cent of the working class families had drinking habits and 2.5 per cent were alcoholics. In Hoshiarpur, the people make about Rs.25,000 a head from dairying, but spend over Rs.20,000 on liquor. In certain villages, liquor cost less than tea. In some villages, the Panchayats had demanded the introduction of prohibition and had closed down licensed liquor shops solely because the entire village was engaged in the illicit liquor trade'.

According to a survey made by the Commercial Editor of 'The Amrita Bazar Patrika' in 1976, 'Indians are drinking more hard liquor. Till 1973, beer sales had been leaping up. Sales were increasing at 25 per cent per annum. Then came two

price hikes-beer prices were increased by 67.9 per cent. In 1974-75 beer sales declined by 23 per cent. The younger age groups prefer beer; the older ones, whisky eight per cent of whisky drinkers earn only Rs.300 to Rs.600 a month. In the lower income groups, gin and rum are favoured. Indian made foreign liquor is popular in urban areas, and contry liquor in rural ones'.

Some years ago, I was taken on a tour of one of India's largest distilleries by its general manager. To my astonishment, I found that whisky was not being distilled in accordance with the conventional method of the famous distilleries in Scotland. Instead spirit was being manufactured, flavoured with Scotch whisky and bottled under well-known brands of whisky being sold in the market. This method was adopted for producing various types of 'wine' as well, with the only difference that certain famous imported brands of wine were used in place of Scotch whisky. Thus what people imagine is pure whisky for wine is in reality flavoured spirit.

I am told that beer, too, is not brewed according to the usual process in Europe, where formented malt is flavoured with hops. Instead according to rumours, glycerrine is used.

Rum is the only alcoholic drink that is manufactured in India in accordance with standard procedure in the West-from molasses, which is a by-product of sugar factories and therefore produced in abundance in the Country.

It is for the authorities to check on the manufacturing process adopted in Indian distilleries and breweries, compare them with a what obtains in the famous counterparts of the West and take penal steps against offenders in India.

Alcohol makes a splendid 'servant', but a devastating 'master'

Physicians usually prescribe a tablespoonful of brandy with a cup of milk daily to patients during period of convalescence after serious illness. But what makes alcohol so fearsome a foe in a country like India is that the people at large have no idea whatever of their capacity for intoxicants. What is worse, people do not know when to drink and what to drink.

It is a common practice among men in large urban areas to drink during the lunch interval. But by doing so, they impair their mental faculties for work during the post-lunch period. It is largely for this reason that in the principal mercantile concerns, the management provides lunch to personnel in the officer cadre, Alcohol is not served and members of the staff can be depended upon to apply themselves to work, with the brains unimpaired by any toxic stimulants.

Personal discipline in the country is far more tax than what it is in the highly developed countries such as Germany. No German can ever be induced to touch alcohol during working hours including the lunch recess. In India on the other hand people eat when they like, what they like (even though what is ingested may not be good for the system) and wherever they like. This lack of discipline is at its lowest where alcohol is concerned.

In the west, people ingest a considerable amount of nourishment-ample enough to absorb the comparatively large quantities of alcoholic drinks imbibed. But here the calorific intake is appallingly poor. Moreover the quality of meat, poultry and eggs is abysmal. In these circumstances, the ravages of alcohol are truly frightening. I have known of highly paid men in large mercantile concerns who have become victims of tuberculosis because of heavy drinking. In contrast people in the Soviet Union have a prodigious capacity for alcohol, but they fortify themselves with ample quantities of vitamin-rich food.

Because of the average Indian's alienation from discipline, he becomes a prey to alcohol very easily and once alcohol aserts its mastery there is very little its slave can do to free himself from the all enveloping coils.

In the existing circumstances, the country is far too poor, far too backward to allow its citizens to debilitate their systems, and thereby their capacity for work, already dangerously below par, by partaking of alcoholic drinks. Instead of succumbing to their temptations, the people should be encouraged to eat more and better and they should be told what to eat and what to eschew. The greater the ingestion of vitamins, the greater will the capacity for work be, and productivity will increase correspondingly.

By being allowed to drink in the present climate, Indians will be encouraged to be their own worst enemies. National construction and bibulousness cannot go hand in hand. India has miles to go before she can come abreast of the more prosperous nations even of Asia. To foster repression and inhibitions may not be kind, but it would be better to keep people away from alcohol and make some headway towards progress and prosperity than to permit indulgence and condemn the entire country to unlimited period of poverty and backwardness.

As somerest Maugham says, "The only way to be strong is never to surrender to one's weakness" ●

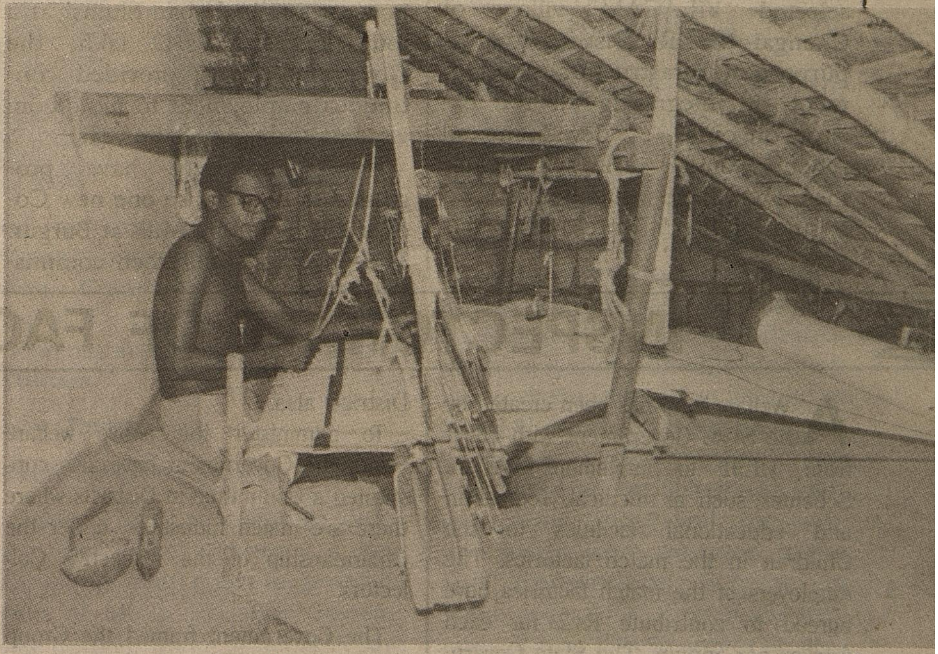
— Charles Newton

Courtesy: Free Press Journal.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS

Handloom contributes major share in meeting the clothing requirement of the people. The technique, articulate ability and inherent technological skill involved in the production of handloom cloth provides livelihood of majority of the poor handloom weavers in rural area. This Government is well aware, that the weavers engaged in the production of cheaper varieties for years in primitive type of looms, are not able to earn to make both the ends meet continues to be in penury. In order to make the poor handloom weavers capable of earning responsible wages for their day to day needs the Government has launched a scheme of technological transformation of converting 37,500 handlooms into 75,000 powerlooms over a period of 10 years. This scheme has been programmed with financial assistance from NABARD from 1991-92 onwards. Under this scheme 500 handloom weavers families will get benefit during 1991-92, which will be extended to another 2,500 families during 1992-93.

As the weavers are adopting the practice of producing handloom goods in primitive and outmoded looms, they are not able to increase the productivity and hence are not capable of earning more. Having clearly understood the real problems of handloom weavers, our Honourable Chief Minister have evolved a new technology upgradation scheme of modernising 50,000 primitive looms at a total expenditure of Rs.42.31 crore in phased manner over a period of 5 years to suit to the latest production technology requirement.

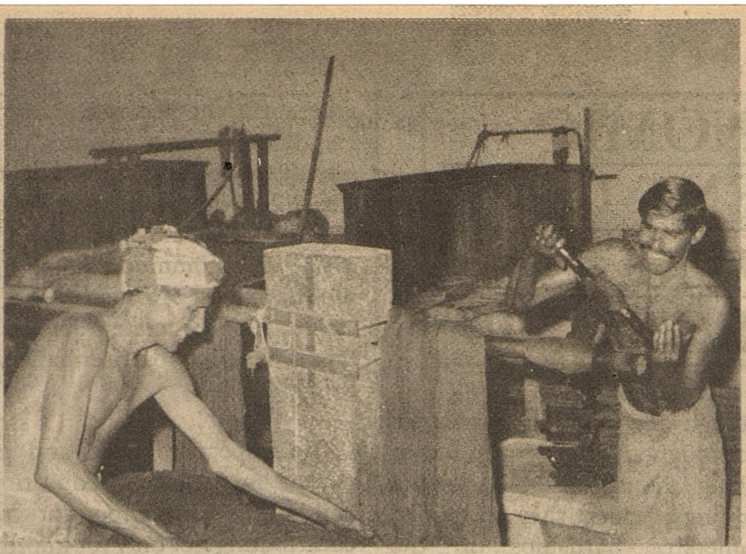


Though the handloom weavers toil throughout their entire life in fulfilling the social obligation of providing of cloth, they are put to innumerable hardships, in the event of the sudden demise of the bread winner of the family. Realising the crying needs of such bereaved family of a deceased weaver, the Government have introduced a new scheme of Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers Family Pension Scheme from 1.1.92. Under this scheme the family of a deceased Handloom Weaver would get a family pension of Rs.250 p.m. for a period of 10 years so that the children of the deceased weaver can continue their education and settle themselves in life, without much difficulty. This apart, the quantum of assistance of Rs.12,000 extended so far to the family of the deceased weaver has now been raised to Rs.17,000.

The Government, in order to provide sufficient accommodation to Handloom Weaver to work conveniently, have programmed to construct 2000 houses under 'Weavers Housing Scheme' for the year 1992-93. Accommodating the present days' cost of construction, the estimate of concrete roofed twin type house has been enhanced to Rs.30,000.

The imperative need and paramount importance of education of children is the important factor contributing not only for improving the social status of the rural people but also for the socio-economic development of the rural areas and the Nation. In order to facilitate the wards of handloom weavers to continue their higher education and to enable them to take up to technical education, the Dr. M.G.R. Handloom Weavers Trust extends financial assistance ranging from Rs.1000 to 2000 each to nearly 16 children of weavers every year to pursue their higher studies.

Handlooms as we are well aware is a rural based industry. Large segment of handloom weavers are living in remote villages which is lacking even in basic amenities and infrastructural facilities. Taking



care of specific needs of weavers and to provide a comprehensive support in all areas which a village requires, the Government have selected 'VILAGAM' village of Chengai M.G.R. District for the purpose of infrastructural development by integrating all the existing/ongoing developmental schemes under various programmes. The village would be provided a sum of Rs.25 lakh during this year.

By ordering for free distribution of 120 lakh Dhothies and Sarees for the 'Landless Poor Agricultural Labourers and those living below poverty line in Urban Slums' at a total cost of Rs.42 lakh, the Government have provided continuous employment to handloom weavers throughout the year.

The Government have programmed to organise one new Co-operative Spinning Mills at Burgur. The proposed Mill when commissioned would provide employment mainly to the women folk.

Providing infrasturcture facilities for marketing of cloth means adequate and continuous work to the weavers. In order to fulfil the long felt need of the handloom sector the Government have come forward to construct two multi storied marketing complexes one for silk varieties at Kancheepuram and another for cotton varieties at Erode at a total cost of Rs.9 crore. These show rooms with spacious accommodation will have all the varieties of silk/cotton produced in all corners of Tamil Nadu to facilitate the consumers of all walks of life to instantly see and buy them in one roof.

With the above schemes being implemented by the Government, with the 'Handloom Weaver' as the pivotal of all schemes, a 'BETTER TOMORROW' is budding for the poor handloom weavers, assuring a renaissance for this languishing rural industry.

INSPECTORATE OF FACTORIES

A Welfare fund has been created by the State Government with effect from 1.1.91 to implement Welfare Schemes such as medical, recreation and educational facilities to the Children in the match factories. The employers of the match factories have agreed to contribute Rs.2 for each worker per annum. The State Government will contribute a matching grant of Rs.2 to each worker per annum, on its part. The fund now covers 54,924 match workers. It is now proposed to enhance the amount from Rs.2 to Rs.10 both by the employees and the Government. It is also proposed to extend the scheme to include 18,550 number of workers in the fire works industry. The Scheme which was made applicable to Kamarajar, Chidambaranar, Tirunelveli - Kattabomman and North Arcot Ambedkar Districts has since been extended to Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Dharmapuri and Chengalpattu-MGR Districts also.

To administer the above welfare Fund, the Government have also constituted a Committee in Districts where there are match industries, under the Chairmanship of the respective Collectors.

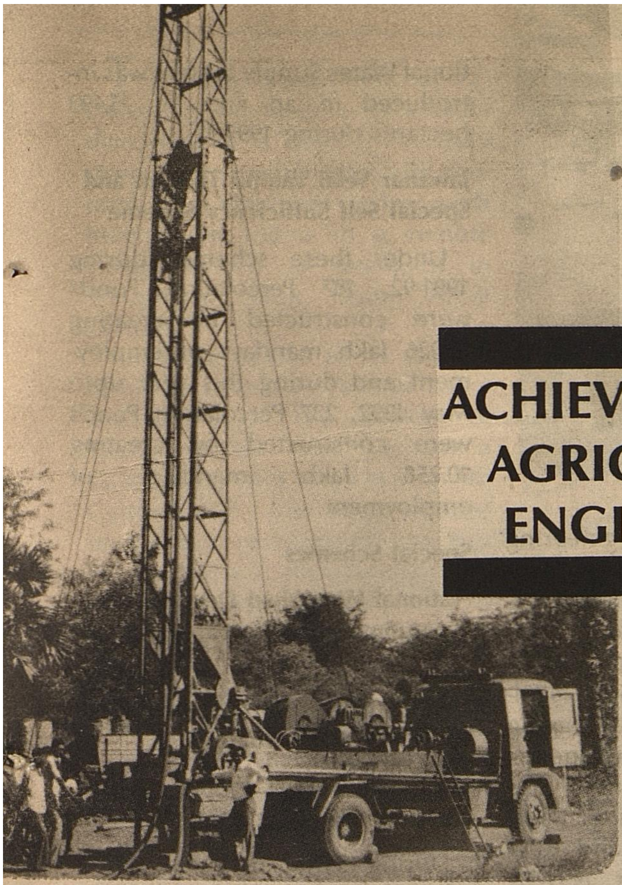
The Government framed the Group personal Accident insurance scheme for the match and fire works employees in Tamil Nadu in the age group of 10 to 65 years. The premium under the scheme is Rs.6 per annum and it is paid by the managements of match and fire works. The accident benefit available under the scheme is Rs.50,000. The scheme is implemented by the National Insurance Company Limited, with effect from 1.7.91.

The Government have also issued instructions to the Chief Inspector of Factories to gear up the inspection machinery to inspect the fire works Factories to eliminate child labour and also to verify whether the managements are maintaining records relating to the age of the workers in the prescribed form.

The District Collectors have also been requested to issue instructions to the Village Administrative officers and the Tahsildars to issue age Certificates to the persons who require them for employment in match and fire works after duly verifying the birth register.

At Sivakasi, a Training Centre for giving Training to the workers employed in the factories engaged in hazardous match works, is proposed to be started during the current year. The Government have since accorded sanction for starting this Centre.

The National Safety Day was celebrated by this Inspectorate on 4.3.92 at Regional Labour Institute, Adyar, Madras-20 and a seminar on 'Safety promotion' was also Organised



ACHIEVEMENTS OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

The Agricultural Engineering **Department** is engaged in conservation, development and management of Soil and Water resources in the State. The Department helps formers in

i) Protection of Soil from erosion hazards and Conservation of Moisture.

ii) Creation/Stabilisation of irrigation potentials and optimisation of water use by introducing Micro Irrigation Systems;

iii) Water Management in well, tank and river command areas;

iv) Providing farm power for land development and to carry out timely agricultural operations.

v) Development of degraded lands for sustainable and utilisation with appropriate land use.

The Department takes up massive employment generation programmes to provide rural employment.

The above tasks are accomplished by implementing Soil and Water Conservation, Minor Irrigation, Command Area Development, Land Development Schemes and Jawahar Velai Vaippu Thittam.

New Thrust

Micro Irrigation Systems

With a view to optimise water use and effect economy a new thrust has been given for propagation of Micro Irrigation Systems like Drip/Sprinkler systems. A sum of Rs.40.01 lakh have been issued as subsidy to the farmers installing Micro Irrigation Systems. Government have approved an attractive pattern of subsidy as below:

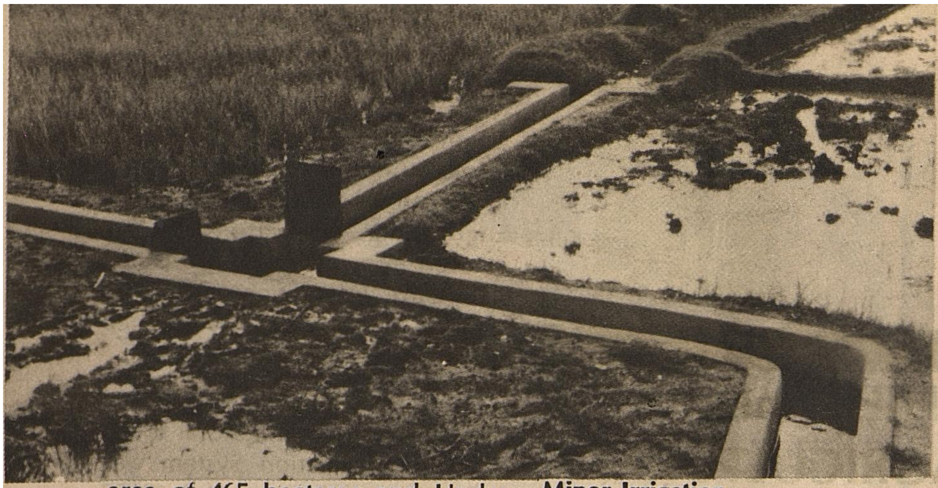
Extent of Land	Rate of Subsidy	Amount of Subsidy
1. Upto 1 hectare	50%	12,500/ha.
2. Above 1 hectare and upto 2 hectare	40%	10,000/ha.
3. Above 2 hectare and upto 3 hectare	30%	7,500/ha.

This scheme has created good response among the farming community. During 1991-92, 301 farmers have been benefitted under this scheme. (Agricultural Engineering Department has evolved systems and procedures to ensure installation of quality products, system performance and training of farmers)

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for promoting horticultural crops with Drip Irrigation System was sanctioned and a sum of Rs.101.57 lakh was issued as subsidy. This is entirely towards the 50% subsidy provided to farmers installing Drip Irrigation for raising horticultural crops. 457 farmers were benefitted under this scheme.

Soil and Water Conservation

The dry lands in the State are subjected to erosion and land degradation problems over a large area. The need for protecting the soil and conserving the water, especially in dry lands have been receiving more attention in order to improve their productivity. The Agricultural Engineering Department executed Soil Conservation works during 1991-92 in an area of 76,462 Hectares and upto May 1992 in an area of 8,248 hectares under Soil Conservation Scheme in Hills and plains. These Soil Conservation works were executed under Soil Conservation Scheme in Tribal Areas in an area of 454 hectares during 1991-92 and in an area of 11 hectares upto May 1992. These works were executed under Kundah and Lower Bhavani River Valley Project in an area of 7,596 hectares and upto May 1992 in an



area of 465 hectares and Under Western Ghat Development Programme in an area of 1,573 hectares during 1991-92 and upto May 1992 in an area of 67 hectares. Soil Conservation works were excuted under Hill Area Development Programme in an area of 1,648 hectares during 1991-92 and upto May 1992 in an area of 130 hectares. These works were executed under Wind Erosion Control Scheme in an area of 1,007 hectares during 1991-92. Under Special Component Plan under the Soil Conservation Scheme in Hills and Plains during 1991-92, 4,457 Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe farmers were benefitted by the Soil Conservation works executed in an area of 4,063 hectares.

Land Development

The Agricultural Engineering Department Bulldozers numbering 115 were worked for 1,72,062 hours during 1991-92 and for 42,589 hours upto May 1992 and executed land levelling works. The Tractors numbering 177 were worked for 1,15,021 hours during 1991-92 and for 12,370 hours upto May1992 andexecutedmachanised cultivation works. The Bulldozers of Agricultural Engineering Department have carried out desilting of irrigation canals in Thanjavur District during 1991-92. The Bulldozers were also pressed into service for desilting of the Mahamaham Tank at Kumbakonam and won the appreciation of all concerned.

Minor Irrigation

The Agricultural Engineering Department maintains a fleet strength of 157 Power drilling rigs, 92 R.B. Units and 46 Long Hole Equipments, 387 Hand Boring Sets, 17 Compressors, 25 Resistivity Meters and 2 Electrical logging Equipments. These machineries were utilised by the farmers and 5,823 Tube wells, 3,501 Filter Point Tube Wells were dug and 6,011 wells revitalised during 1991-92. During this year upto May 1992, 1,074 Tube Wells, 714 Filter Point Tube Wells were dug and 1,135 Wells were revitalised.

Special Food Grains Production Programme

Under the Special Food Grains Production Programme Agricultural Engineering Department provided subsidy to small, marginal and tribal farmers at the rate of Rs.3,000 Rs.4,000 and Rs.5,000 respectively for construction of wells, tube wells and deepening of wells. During 1991-92 with a total subsidy of Rs.105 lakh, 5,232 farmers were benefitted.

Water Management in Command Areas

In the Commands of Cauvery, Lower Bhavani, Sathanur, Parambikulam Aliyar and Periyar-Vaigai on farm development works were executed in an area of 47,576 hectares during 1991-92 and in an area of 8,197 hectares upto May 1992. In the commands of Cauvery, Lower Bhavani and Periyar-Vaigai Rotational Water Supply System was introduced in an area of 15,493 hectares during 1991-92.

Jawahar Velai Vaippu Thittam and Special Self Sufficiency Scheme

Under these schemes during 1991-92, 187 Percolation Ponds were constructed by creating 10.926 lakh mandays of employment and during this year upto May 1992, 237 Percolation Ponds were constructed by creating 10.258 lakh mandays of employment.

Special Schemes

National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture

Under this scheme during 1991-92, 594 Runoff control structures were constructed.

Comprehensive Watershed Development Programme

During 1991-92 in Tirunelveli Kattabomman and Chidamabaranar Districts the work of development of degraded lands were undertaken. Under this scheme during 1991-92, Watershed Management works were executed in an area of 1,650 hectares, Wind Erosion Control works were executed in an area of 1,110 hectares, Waste Land Development works were executed in an area of 1,028 hectares and Theri Land Development Works were executed in an area of 2,140 hectares.

Farm Youth Training Schools

Two training schools were run at Madurai and Tiruchirappalli to give training for youths engaged in Agriculture on the operation and maintenance of Agricultural machinery and allied equipments and during 1991-92, 157 farm youths were trained by Agricultural Engineering Department.

Thus the farmer and farm youths were benefitted by the Achievements of Agricultural Engineering Department. ●

A REMARKABLE DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT SCULPTURE

The State Department of Archaeology has made a remarkable discovery of a seventh century stone sculpture which could probably be identified either with Muruga or Indira in a remote village known as Anangkur in Villupuram Taluk, South Arcot District.

Anangkur seems to be famous from the period of Pallavas as an inscription of the period of Thellarrerintha Nandi Varman, a Pallava King who ruled during 9th Century A.D., had been noticed on the bank of a channel near this village. There is also a temple called Agastheeswarar Koil which is situated in the north west of this village. The present structure of this temple seems to have been rebuilt in the time of Kulothunga Chola I since an inscription of him is found on the inner wall of the Garpagragha. There are also some fragment inscriptions datable to 11th to 13th Century A.D. The name of the deity of this temple is mentioned, in the Pallava inscription as Mahadevar and the Village as Anangkur. Hence it is presumed that this Siva Temple must have been rebuilt during the period of Kulothunga Chola on the remains of the earlier structure which was in existence from the period of Tellarrerintha Nandi Varman, in whose period 24 Kalanju of pon was gifted to this temple by an individual. In the inscription of Kulothunga Chola the name of the deity is referred to as Anangkur Udaiyar. It is also understood from another inscription that this village was situated in Panaiyur Nadu.

The stone sculpture which is identifiable either with Muruga or Indira is in the typical style of early Pallava, datable to 6th - 7th Century A.D. The God is found seated on an elephant. Both God and his mount are found carved from a slab stone. The God is wearing a Makuta which is not easily identifiable either with Krita Makuta or Jata Makuta and a sakthi like object is held in the upper right hand while the Akshamala is in the upper left hand. The lower right hand is in the position of lala hasta while the lower left hand is placed upon the thigh as Uru hasta. The ornaments worn on the neck and on the hands are thick in nature attesting early period of the sculpture. Concerning the elephant only face portion is seen. The tusks appear to be short, having broad ear on either side.

The discovery of this sculpture is significant as this is the first securrence in panelform though a figure of this kind scooped out of the rock had already been noticed in the Tiger cave of Saluvankuppam near Mamallapuram.

Just about 50 yards away on the eastern side of this sculpture there is a group of Sapthamathirika and a figure of Gajalakshmi carved as panel sculptures. Of the seven figures Sapthamathirika group only five are available. All are in seated posture holding the respective weapons in their right hands while the left hands are placed on the left thighs. On the basis of the stylistical ground these image could be assigned to the same period of Muruga.

The figure of Gajalakshmi, depicted in seated posture on a lotus, bearing two lotus flowers in her hands, is found flanked by an elephant on either side. There are two Butaganas below the lotus seat.

While conducting the Epigraphical survey in and around of this village Thiru Muthuswamy, Epigraphist was able to locate the above figures in addition to two Durga figures and a Vishnu Sculpture belonging to 8th - 9th Century A.D. ●

To meet the demand of growing population for nutrition food, and to attain self sufficiency in nutrition health food rich in vitamins and minerals Tamil Nadu Government implements various schemes through Horticulture Department.

By implementing such schemes, production of fruits, has increased from 28.52 lakhs MT to 32.04 lakh MT which is 10% increase over the previous year, and vegetable from 33.32 lakh MT to 37.46 lakh MT which is 12% increase over the previous year.

The various schemes implemented by the Department of Horticulture are as follows:

1. Integrated Horticultural Development Scheme.
2. Integrated Tribal Development Programme.
3. Western Ghats Development Programme.
4. Hill Area Development Programme.
5. Drought Prone Area Programme.
6. Training and Visit.

ESTABLISHING NUTRITIONAL GARDEN IN RURAL AREA:

To tackle the problem of malnutrition in rural areas, Tamil Nadu Government through Horticulture Department distributed fruit saplings to establish a nutritional garden in rural homesteed at a cost of Rs.18.70 lakhs. Under this scheme, 37,500 rural farm families were assisted to establish such nutritional gardens.

INCREASING VEGETABLE PRODUCTION:

To increase the production and availability of vegetables, Tamil Nadu Government through the Department of Horticulture has distributed 3,200 Minikits containing high yielding hybrid vegetable seeds at a cost of Rs.2.37 lakhs. With successful implementation of scheme during 1992-93 the Government has increased the outlay of the scheme to 10.50 lakhs, so that the benefits of the scheme reach more number of people.

ASSISTANCE TO TRIBAL FAMILIES:

2,600 tribal families were assisted by way of establishing 1 acre orchard/family, maintaining these orchards and training the tribal farmers in horticulture etc., at a cost of Rs.82 lakhs.

REJUVENATION OF OLD ORCHARDS:

Many orchards have been neglected due to various reasons in Tamil Nadu. To rejuvenate these neglected orchards, Tamil Nadu Government have spent Rs.7.64 lakhs by way of distributing quality high yielding saplings. Last year orchards in an total extent of 600 ha have been rejuvenated.

TRAINING OF FARMERS IN OTHER STATES:

50 progressive farmers have been selected all over from the State and taken on tour to Andhra Pradesh and trained in the various horticultural technologies.

ASSISTANCE TO HORTICULTURAL PRODUCERS' SOCIETY:

Horticultural Producers' are not getting remunerative prices for their produce due to the problem of high cost of transport, cold storage and presence of middlemen in the market. To tackle this problem, Tamil Nadu Government gave financial assistance to registered Co-operative Societies to purchase transport vehicle, to construct cold storage facilities, to establish retail outlets and purchase of packing materials for horticultural produces. So far seven such societies have been assisted.

MANGO SHOW:

Tamil Nadu Government conducted All India Mango Show/festival at Krishnagiri to exhibit the wealth of Mangoes of Tamil Nadu and encourage the mango cultivators.

FLOWER AND FRUIT SHOW:

Tamil Nadu Government conducted Flower Show and Fruit Show at Ooty, Kodaikanal, Yercaud, Coimbatore etc., to exhibit the floral and fruit wealth of Tamil Nadu and encourage the fruit and flower cultivators. ●

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